

Message Text

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PORT LOUIS PEKING PRAGUE PRETORIA JUL 28, 1978

QUOTE: UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03037

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TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: TEXT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENT
IN SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 27.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
SECRETARY VANCE IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 27 IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA AND WALVIS
BAY. FIRST PART OF STATEMENT WAS MADE AS REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES AND SECOND PART CONCERNING WALVIS
BAY ON BEHALF OF WESTERN FIVE GOVERNMENTS.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF STATEMENT.

THIS IS AN AUSPICIOUS OCCASION IN THE HISTORY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS AND IN THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL. AFTER
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MONTHS OF PAINSTAKING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY THE
REPRESENTATIVES OF MANY COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS,
INCLUDING THE UN ITSELF, WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO A PROBLEM NEARLY AS OLD AS THE
UNITED NATIONS ITSELF. THE ISSUE OF NAMIBIA WAS FIRST
RAISED IN THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1946, AND THE INABILITY
OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO COME TO AN INTERNATIONALLY-
ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM HAS, OVER THE YEARS,
POSED AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PEACE AND

STABILITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

TODAY, BY DINT OF HARD WORK AND GOOD WILL, WE HAVE FINALLY SET IN MOTION THE PROCESS BY WHICH NAMIBIA WILL ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE PEACEFULLY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385. IN TERMS OF THE PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE HISTORY OF THIS PROBLEM, IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT THIS PROCESS TAKE PLACE PEACEFULLY AND THROUGH DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

I AM PLEASED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY A ROLE IN WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO SINGLE OUT ANY ONE COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE MADE A CONTRIBUTION, AND IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT EACH CONTRIBUTION WAS IN ITS OWN WAY VITAL AND ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THIS DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENT BELONGS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF. IT HAS PROVIDED THE IMPETUS FOR A NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT, SERVED AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND IS NOW PROVIDING THE MECHANISM FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, WHOSE SUPPORT AND ADVICE HAS UNCLASSIFIED
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BEEN INVALUABLE THROUGHOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHO WILL HAVE TO SEE THE PROCESS THROUGH ITS CONCLUSION, MERITS OUR PARTICULAR GRATITUDE.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, WE MUST EXPRESS OUR SENSE OF APPRECIATION FOR THEIR PURSUIT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN WITH MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL IN WORKING DILIGENTLY TOWARD THAT GOAL. TO THE FRONT LINE AFRICAN STATES, WITHOUT WHOSE ASSISTANCE THIS CONCLUSION TO OUR EFFORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE, WE MUST EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND OUR BELIEF THAT IN FACILITATING A PEACEFUL SETTELEMENT IN NAMIBIA THEY HAVE MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF AFRICA AS A WHOLE. WE ALSO WISH TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE POSITIVE ROLE OTHER PARTIES IN NAMIBIA HAVE PLAYED IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

IN MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED HAS IMPLICATIONS WHICH GO FAR BEYOND THE NAMIBIA PROBLEM ITSELF. THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THIS INTERNATIONAL ISSUE CAN ENCOURAGE SOLUTIONS FOR OTHER PRESSING PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA. THERE THE SAME SPIRIT OF GOODWILL AND COMPROMISE EXHIBITED BY THE PARTIES IN NAMIBIA COULD

CREATE A BASIS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

BY OPENING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF NAMIBIA,
WE ALSO OPEN A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS. THE WORLD BODY WILL NOW PROVIDE THE IMPETUS
FOR THE EMERGENCE OF A NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATION. BY
APPROVING THIS PROPOSAL FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, AT
ONE AND THE SAME TIME WE VOTE FOR AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA
AND WE TAKE A STEP TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESTIGE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS AND ITS ABILITY TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY
TO CRITICAL PROBLEMS WHEREVER THEY ARISE. LET US HOPE
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THIS SUCCESS WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO ENCOURAGE ALL
OF US TO JOIN IN SEEKING EQUALLY POSITIVE SOLUTIONS
TO OTHER CRITICAL PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONT THE WORLD
COMMUNITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, THAT CONCLUDES MY REMARKS ON BEHALF OF
THE UNITED STATES. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL
STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE RESOLUTION ON
WALVIS BAY WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE
SECURITY COUNCIL.

FROM THE BEGINNING OF OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE BY NAMIBIA IN ACCORDANCE
WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385, OUR GOVERNMENTS
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HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE STRONGLY HELD VIEWS BY THE
PARTIES CONCERNED ON THE STATUS OF WALVIS BAY. SINCE
THESE OPPOSING VIEWS APPEARED TO BE IRRECONCILABLE,
THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS DECIDED TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT
THEY WOULD NOT INCLUDE ANY PROVISIONS ON THIS
QUESTION IN THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE
NAMIBIAN SITUATION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE TERMS OF THE
PROPOSAL WHICH WE SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON
10 APRIL CONTAIN NO MENTION OF WALVIS BAY.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE NO VIEWS CONCERNING THIS
QUESTION. WE ADOPTED OUR POSITION IN RECOGNITION OF THE
FACT THAT NO PROPOSAL ON WALVIS BAY APPEARED TO BE
CAPABLE OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE PARTIES. INDEED, WE
WERE ACUTELY AWARE THAT AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION
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IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PROPOSAL WOULD MAKE AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL IMPOSSIBLE.

THUS, IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE PARTIES WE DID NOT SEEK TO INITIATE A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE. WE EMPHASIZED TO ALL CONCERNED OUR BELIEF THAT A DISCUSSION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF WALVIS BAY WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AND COULD ONLY CONTINUE TO HAMPER A RESOLUTION OF THE THIRTY-YEAR CONTROVERSY OVER NAMIBIA. INSTEAD, WE STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY WOULD HAVE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE, AND WE BELIEVE ALL PARTIES RECOGNIZE, THAT WALVIS BAY IS CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA SAID WHEN HE SPOKE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE NINTH SPECIAL SESSION ON APRIL 25TH.

MR. JAMIESON SAID, AND I QUOTE:

"THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE NOTED THAT WE HAVE OMITTED FROM OUR PROPOSAL THE DIFFICULT QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY FOR THE REASON THAT WE SEE NO WAY OF SETTLING THE QUESTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS. WE FEEL STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT DELAY THE LONG-SOUGHT-AFTER INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA. WE CONSIDER THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY MUST BE SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA. WE HAVE FURTHERMORE, OBTAINED ASSURANCES THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE IN WALVIS BAY WILL NOT BE INCREASED DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND THAT NAMIBIANS IN WALVIS BAY WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE TERRITORY DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, INCLUDING BY VOTING IN THE
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ELECTIONS."

SINCE THAT TIME OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THIS DIFFICULT QUESTION. WE HAVE CONFIRMED OUR POSITION THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO ENTER INTO DISPUTES OF A LEGAL CHARACTER CONCERNING THE VARIOUS CLAIMS AS TO THE STATUS OF WALVIS BAY. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE ARGUMENTS OF A GEOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL CULTURAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE WHICH SUPPORT THE UNION OF WALVIS BAY WITH NAMIBIA. OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO TAKEN DUE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT POLITICAL PARTIES IN NAMIBIA HOLD THE VIEW THAT WALVIS BAY MUST BE PART OF AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS FOR "THE INITIATION OF STEPS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE EARLY REINTEGRATION OF WALVIS BAY INTO NAMIBIA." THIS RESOLUTION DOES NOT PREJUDICE THE LEGAL POSITION OF ANY PARTY. IT DOES NOT SEEK TO COERCE ANY PARTY. FOR OUR PART WE WOULD LIKE TO STATE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR ROLE WITH RESPECT TO THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY. THE COMMITMENT OUR FIVE GOVERNMENTS ARE UNDERTAKING BY VOTING IN FAVOR OF THIS RESOLUTION IS TO STAND READY TO OFFER THE DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT OF OUR GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION. WE VIEW OUR UNDERTAKING AS CONSISTENT WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS THAT DISPUTED QUESTIONS ARE TO BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY.

WE CONSIDER THAT THE "STEPS NECESSARY" REFERRED TO IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE RESOLUTION ARE NEGOTIATIONS
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BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA THAT WILL BE ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE SITUATION, AND WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA HAS PUBLICLY INDICATED ITS READINESS TO ENTER INTO SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

WE HOPE THAT THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION WILL MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. IN OUR VIEW, THE SUPPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN RESOLVING THIS QUESTION IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER BESTOWS UPON THIS BODY. OUR GOVERNMENTS PLEDGE TO EXERT OUR BEST EFFORTS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN EARLY, PEACEFUL, AND SUCCESSFUL RESULT TO THE NEGOTIATIONS ON WALVIS BAY FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION.

END TEXT.

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